

Local

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

50 YEARS AGO

from the Democrat-Herald

July 2, 1972

HALFWAY — The search for a new Pine-Eagle High School coach ended here yesterday as Michael James Murray was named as the head football and baseball mentor and assistant basketball pilot for the '72-'73 season.

25 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

July 2, 1997

The first stages of work will begin on the new back nine holes of the Baker City Golf Club soon, possibly as early as next week.

The Baker City Council, meeting in special session Tuesday evening, voted to enter into a personal services contract with Willie Hall, owner of Hall and Lindsay Inc. of Victoria, B.C., Canada.

10 YEARS AGO

from the Baker City Herald

July 2, 2012

Jason and Stacy Bingham are living a double nightmare, watching hearts fail in both their son and daughter.

It's happened before for the couple, who live near Haines. Different child, same diagnosis.

Lindsey Lou, 8, and Gage, 3, are now next door to each other at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Palo Alto, Calif.

Lindsey hasn't felt quite right for a while, but she got really sick.

Her diagnosis: dilated cardiomyopathy, a disease of the heart muscle that causes it to become enlarged.

It is the exact same diagnosis the Bingham heard six years ago when their oldest daughter, Sierra, got sick.

ONE YEAR AGO

from the Baker City Herald

July 1, 2021

A fire sparked by farm equipment on the hottest June day on record in Baker County raced through dry grass and sagebrush in Keating Valley, threatening several homes before crews from multiple agencies, with help from a pair of air tankers, stopped the blaze Tuesday evening, June 29.

"It really took off in 110-degree heat with 20 mile an hour winds behind it," said Buzz Harper, chief of the Keating Rural Fire Protection District. "In that heat and wind it could have been real bad."

The fire, which was fully lined Tuesday night, burned about 100 acres, Harper said. No homes were damaged.

Crews from the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management were mopping up Wednesday morning, he said.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash said the Sheriff's Office gave evacuation notices to about 10 residents as a precaution.

Flames came within about 50 yards of one home, Harper said.

The fire was reported to Baker County Dispatch at 2:52 p.m.

Harper said the blaze started in a field near Middle Bridge Road, where a swather was operating. He suspects a disc on the swather hit a rock, causing a spark.

When he was notified about the fire, Harper said he took one engine, with a water capacity of 250 gallons, while his son, Steven Harper, and another Keating volunteer, Brad Bottoms, headed out with a 1,000-gallon engine.

OREGON LOTTERY

MEGABUCKS, JUNE 29

3-13-15-24-29-39

Next jackpot: \$2.8 million

POWERBALL, JUNE 29

8-40-49-58-63 PB 14

Next jackpot: \$20 million

MEGA MILLIONS, JUNE 28

7-12-21-43-55 Mega 11

Next jackpot: \$360 million

WIN FOR LIFE, JUNE 29

6-13-55-68

PICK 4, JUNE 30

• 1 p.m.: 2-8-8-3

• 4 p.m.: 3-2-9-7

• 7 p.m.: 3-3-1-0

• 10 p.m.: 4-0-2-9

LUCKY LINES, JUNE 30

3-8-10-14-19-24-28-30

Next jackpot: \$25,000

SENIOR MENUS

MONDAY (July 4): Closed for Independence Day

TUESDAY (July 5): Salisbury steak, scalloped potatoes, corn, biscuits, fruit cup, ice cream

WEDNESDAY (July 6): Chicken cordon bleu with hollandaise, rice pilaf, peas and carrots, rolls, green salad, cookies

THURSDAY (July 7): Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, rolls, green salad, bread pudding

FRIDAY (July 8): Baked ham, candied yams, green beans, rolls, ambrosia, cinnamon rolls

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$5 donation (60 and older), \$7.50 for those under 60.

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Wyden welcomes end to proposal to reduce care for Eastern Oregon veterans

EAST OREGONIAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.

— U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden announced the proposal to make the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla an outpatient clinic is coming to an end.

Wyden in a press release Wednesday, June 29, said he welcomed the news this week that Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Montana, U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Washington, and a bipartisan group of senators will block the veterans Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission's proposals to reclassify the Walla Walla veterans facility as a community-based outpatient clinic and to move its 31-bed residential rehabilitation treatment program 180 miles north of Walla Walla to Spokane.



Associated Press, File

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., speaks about the child tax credit during a news conference, Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

This comes as Wyden has been pressing the Veterans Administration through town halls he hosted for Eastern Oregon veterans, their fami-

lies and veterans service providers to ask top VA officials about proposed VA cuts and service changes that would have gone to the AIR Com-

mission for consideration.

Wyden shared Eastern Oregon veterans' concerns at a June 4 town hall about VA recommendations to the Walla Walla VA medical center.

"What I heard earlier this month from veterans in Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker and Morrow counties was their deep and well-justified concern about how these proposals would undercut the quality and accessible care they earned with their service to our country," said Wyden, who also wrote a letter last month to the VA detailing the rural Oregon veterans' concerns. "The end to the process that could have led to poorer and more distant care for Eastern Oregon veterans is good news, and I'll continue to advocate for these rural veterans to ensure these ill-considered proposals don't resurface."

Forest Service sets up firewood cutting area

Baker City Herald

The Whitman Ranger District has created a special firewood cutting area near Eagle Creek, northeast of Baker City, to encourage residents to cut trees burned in the 2015 Eagle fire.

An infestation of Douglas-fir bark beetles is also killing trees in the area, according to the Whitman District.

Kendall Cikanek, Whitman District ranger, approved the firewood area and allowed woodcutters to use two roads that had been closed after a 1993 timber sale. The roads are in the O'Brien Creek area.

The special firewood cutting area will be open until Aug. 24.

Many of the burned trees have been falling across multiple roads in the area since the fire, potentially blocking access for firefighting crews, according to the Whitman District.

Woodcutters will need a personal use cutting permit. Those are free this year, to a household limit of 10 cords. Permits are available at Forest Service offices and at some local businesses.

Details about the O'Brien firewood cutting area:

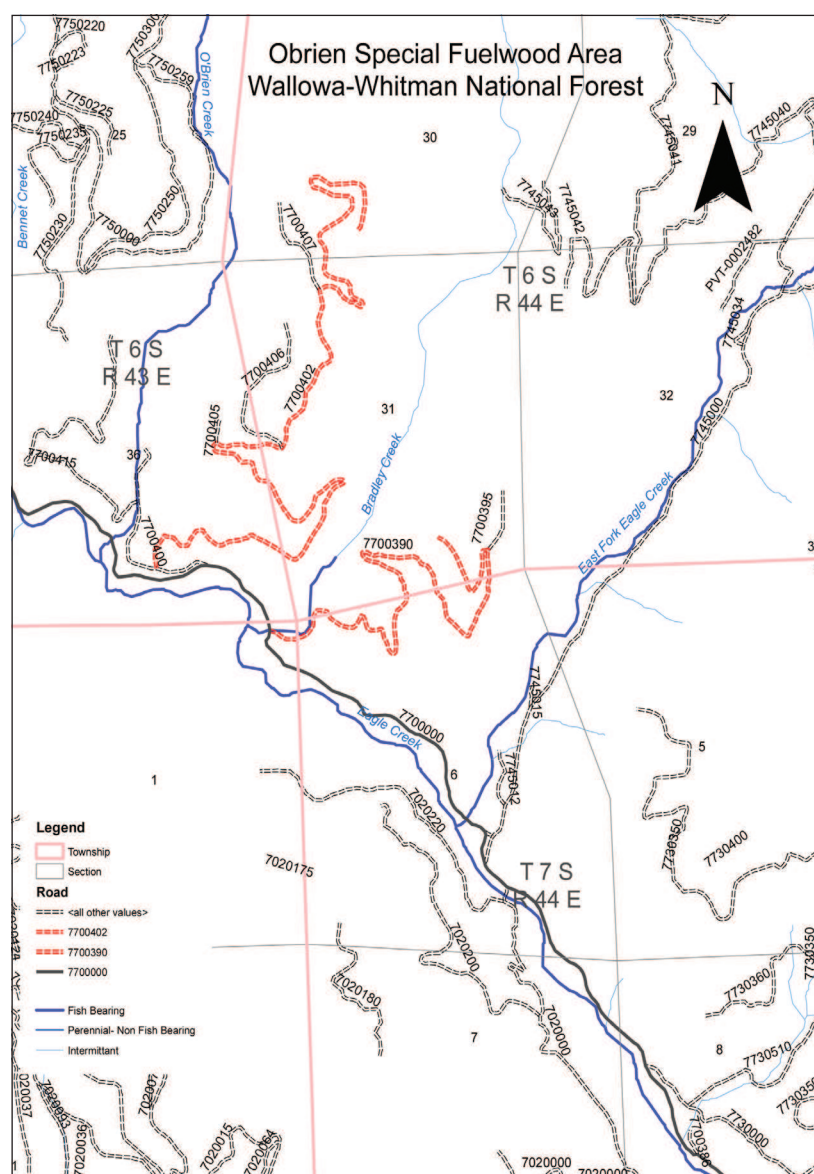
- All roads connected to roads 7700-390 and 7700-400 that are not closed by a barrier are included in the area.
- Cutting limited to trees within two tree lengths of a road.
- Ponderosa pine is not included.
- No off-road skidding with mechanical equipment allows.

Log decks also available for firewood

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Forest Service are also making leftover log decks available for firewood cutting at the Sparta GNA timber sale.

The decks are along open roads north of Sparta Butte, including roads 7000-075 and 7000-079.

There is an active timber sale in the area, as well, and firewood cutting is not allowed within that sale.



U.S. Forest Service map

The O'Brien special firewood cutting area is near Eagle Creek, northeast of Baker City.

Fire

Continued from A1

Crews will continue to travel along firelines to check for flare ups or hot spots.

Firefighters worked through the night Thursday, June 30 into the first morning of July to mop up and monitor.

The fire started on private land about 3:15 p.m. on June 28, and burned later that day onto public land on BLM's Vale District.

The cause is under investigation.

On Wednesday, June 29 flames spread to the edge of Interstate 84 between Farewell Bend and Ontario. The fire did not cross the freeway.

The fire didn't damage any structures, and no residents were evacuated, as the blaze burned in uninhabited grass and sagebrush range.

Two public cattle grazing



Vale District Bureau of Land Management/Contributed Photo

Crews work on the Willowcreek fire beside Interstate 84 between Farewell Bend and Ontario on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

allotments were burned, and BLM staff are assessing the damage to those areas.

Fire danger increases, fireworks banned on public land

The Vale District has increased the fire danger from moderate to high due to re-

cent dry, warm weather.

"This is especially the case around high recreation use areas and wildland urban interface zones," said Al Crouch, fire mitigation specialist for the Vale District. "Conditions are very different in the higher elevations where the live fuel moistures are still higher."

With thousands of visitors expected to enjoy the holiday weekend outside, the risk of human-caused wildfire increases.

BLM officials remind recreationists that fireworks are prohibited on public land.

Other restrictions include:

- Discharging or using combustible or explosive composition or chemical devices, including exploding targets.
- Discharging or using tracer, explosive, or incendiary ammunition.
- Discharging steel component (core or jacket) ammunition.
- Releasing or causing to be released any sky lanterns, airborne paper lanterns, aerial luminaries and/or fire balloons.
- Shooting at any metallic object, including but not limited to using metal targets for target shooting.

News of Record

DEATHS

Leigh Ann Hammond: 41, of Baker City, died June 21, 2022, at her home. No services are planned at this time. To light a candle in memory of Leigh Ann, or to offer online condolences to her family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Ida Marie Haefner: 74, of Pleasant Valley, died June 28, 2022, at her home. No services are planned at this time. To light a candle in memory of Ida, or to offer online condolences to her family, go to www.grayswestco.com.

Marlene Jacobson: 88, of Baker City, died June 27, 2022, at Settler's Park, surrounded in love.

A celebration of her life will take place at a later date, details to be announced. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

POLICE LOG

Baker City Police

Arrests, citations

FAILURE TO APPEAR (Baker County Circuit Court warrant): Tami Deann Dudley, 41, Baker City, 11:15 p.m. Thursday, June 30 at Main Street and Washington Avenue; cited and released.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

Arrests, citations

DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED (Baker County Justice Court warrant): Joshua Cain Collins, 41, Baker City, 3:41 p.m. Thursday, June 30 at the sheriff's office; cited and released.

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